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10/791,831	03/04/2004	Daniel Ledermann	250031US2	3854
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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
THOMAS, JASON M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicants suggest that, "Hasegawa et al. which, because of the matter which it deals, logically would not have commended itself to an inventor's attention in considering this problem of providing a system for recording and playback of television signals from a plurality of television channels in a computer based controlling central unit, connectible to a telecommunication network" (see pg. 10). Furthermore, because claim 1, "defines that the instruction unit connected to the controlling central unit is configured to instruct the controlling central unit to select and store the television signals..." (Ibid.) the "storage devices 20-24 do not constitute an instruction unit connected to and instructing a controlling central unit. Rather...the element most resembling an instruction unit is element 300 the control device 30" (Ibid.). The Examiner disagrees with this representation.

Jones teaches an interactive on-demand multimedia delivery system which provides, through a system manager, interactive access to subscribers through some form of instruction device such as a set top box (see [abstract]). In addition Jones teaches the added feature of video recording so that users can view desired programming at a future time (Ibid.). The teachings of Hasegawa present an analogous system which is designed to allow users to store and playback content as desired. Furthermore, Hasegawa teaches a central controlling unit, defined in the prior art as a "central control device" 40 (see [fig. 3], [46], [64]) which is designed to

receive instruction from element 300, more specifically the control device 30 of element 300, which Applicants correctly recognize as an "element most resembling an instruction unit", as opposed to the storage devices 20-24, which instructs the central control device 40 to manage user access by retrieving or storing multimedia files based on user IDs and passwords associated with the requested multimedia program and the requesting viewer (see [55], [113-114]). Thus the combination of the control device 30 and the central control device 40 read on an instruction unit which is connected to the controlling central unit, respectively, as recited in claim 1.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason Thomas whose telephone number is (571) 270-5080. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thurs., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig can be reached on (571) 272-7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

J. Thomas

/Andrew Y Koenig/
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